Table 33

Educational attainment of doctorate recipients' parents, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2019

(Number and percent distribution)

Demographic characteristic and field	Total (number)	Parental education attainment (%)							
		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional degree ^b	Research doctoral degree	
All doctorate recipients									
Father's education ^c	47,821	100.0	23.4	13.7	27.2	17.4	8.4	10.0	
Mother's education ^d	48,232	100.0	27.1	17.3	29.3	17.7	4.3	4.4	
Sex									
Male									
Father's education	25,929	100.0	23.6	13.2	28.1	17.1	8.0	10.1	
Mother's education	26,078	100.0	28.9	16.6	29.7	16.9	4.1	3.8	
Female									
Father's education	21,891	100.0	23.2	14.4	26.2	17.6	8.9	9.8	
Mother's education	22,153	100.0	25.0	18.1	28.8	18.5	4.5	5.1	
Citizenship status									
U.S. citizen or permanent resident									
Father's education	31,768	100.0	21.2	14.4	24.7	18.7	10.3	10.7	
Mother's education	32,132	100.0	21.3	19.1	28.8	21.0	5.1	4.8	
Temporary visa holder									
Father's education	16,028	100.0	27.8	12.3	32.2	14.6	4.7	8.4	
Mother's education	16,076	100.0	38.6	13.7	30.3	11.1	2.7	3.6	
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)									
Hispanic or Latino									
Father's education	2,524	100.0	35.3	15.7	21.1	12.5	8.4	7.1	
Mother's education	2,580	100.0	34.9	19.6	23.7	13.3	4.1	4.5	
Not Hispanic or Latino									
American Indian or Alaska Native									
Father's education	93	100.0	D	24.7	10.8	11.8	D	5.4	
Mother's education	99	100.0	32.3	27.3	19.2	15.2	D	D	
Asian									
Father's education	3,113	100.0	18.9	9.2	23.4	19.0	7.5	22.0	
Mother's education	3,129	100.0	26.9	14.1	29.0	18.5	4.9	6.5	
Black or African American									
Father's education	2,040		42.1	20.8	17.4	11.0	5.0	3.7	
Mother's education	2,159	100.0	33.3	25.2	18.3	16.2	3.5	3.5	
White									
Father's education	22,626	100.0	18.1	14.4	26.2	20.0	11.3	10.1	
Mother's education	22,772	100.0	17.9	19.1	30.4	22.5	5.3	4.7	
More than one race									
Father's education	1,052	100.0	18.7	16.2	20.2	20.3	11.1	13.5	
Mother's education	1,071	100.0	19.1	18.5	27.0	23.1	D	D	
Other race or race not reported									
Father's education	237	100.0	D	13.9	21.5	20.3	D	14.3	
Mother's education	237	100.0	21.1	18.1	25.7	20.7	7.6	6.8	
Ethnicity not reported									
Father's education	83	100.0	22.9	9.6	26.5	22.9	12.0	6.0	

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(Number and percent distribution)

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		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional degree ^b	Research doctoral degree	
Mother's education	85	100.0	17.6	21.2	29.4	22.4	5.9	3.5	
Field of study									
Life sciences ^e									
Father's education	11,324	100.0	22.6	13.9	27.0	17.4	9.2	9.9	
Mother's education	11,422	100.0	25.1	17.8	29.6	18.2	4.9	4.4	
Physical sciences and earth sciences									
Father's education	5,796	100.0	23.8	13.9	28.5	16.5	7.3	10.0	
Mother's education	5,843	100.0	27.3	16.4	30.6	16.9	4.6	4.2	
Mathematics and computer sciences									
Father's education	3,636	100.0	21.1	12.2	30.9	16.6	7.4	11.8	
Mother's education	3,642	100.0	27.8	15.8	31.3	16.1	4.4	4.7	
Psychology and social sciences									
Father's education	7,600	100.0	23.7	14.5	24.0	18.0	10.2	9.7	
Mother's education	7,705	100.0	24.9	18.4	27.2	19.3	4.8	5.3	
Engineering									
Father's education	8,858	100.0	21.6	12.4	32.2	17.8	5.8	10.2	
Mother's education	8,871	100.0	29.4	15.6	32.5	15.2	3.5	3.7	
Education									
Father's education	3,945	100.0	32.8	18.4	21.0	14.8	6.7	6.4	
Mother's education	4,011	100.0	33.9	21.5	22.0	17.2	2.1	3.3	
Humanities and arts									
Father's education	4,240	100.0	20.8	11.8	23.6	20.0	12.7	11.1	
Mother's education	4,295	100.0	22.1	16.3	28.9	21.9	5.8	5.0	
Other ^f									
Father's education	2,422	100.0	24.6	12.9	27.4	16.3	7.6	11.1	
Mother's education	2,443	100.0	30.9	16.4	28.5	16.3	3.0	5.0	

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

Note(s):

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s)

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.

^a Includes those who attended college but did not earn a bachelor's.

^b Includes professional doctorate such as MD, DDS, DVM, JD, PsyD, DDiv.

^c Total count excludes those who did not report father's education and those who reported "not applicable/unknown."

^d Total count excludes those who did not report mother's education and those who reported "not applicable/unknown."

^e Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.

f Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.